

Appl. No. 09/629,601
Amdt. dated March 10, 2005
Reply to Office action of January 12, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants received the final Office action dated January 12, 2005, in which the Examiner: 1) rejected claims 1-3, 9-12, 14-18, 23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rikukawa et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,940,629) in view of DeKoning et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,178,520); and 2) objected to claims 4-8, 13, 19-22 and 24 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but which would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants opt to restrict the claims in light of what the Examiner concluded is patentable. As such, no new issues are raised by these amendments. Specifically, Applicants amend claims 1, 5-8, 15, and 20-22, cancel claims 4, 16, 19, and 25, and add new claims 26-32. Based on the remarks and amendments stated herein, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

With regard to claim 4, the Examiner objected to the claim as being dependent on a rejected base claim (claim 1), but indicated that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Without conceding the merits of the Examiner's rejection of claim 1, Applicants have incorporated the limitations of dependent claim 4 into independent claim 1, and cancelled claim 4. Claims 5-7, which previously had depended upon claim 4, are amended to now depend upon claim 1. Claim 8, which depends upon claim 1, is amended to reflect the correct antecedent basis of a claim element now present in claim 1 as amended. The amendments to claims 5-8 do not narrow the scope of the claims. Based on these amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, as well as dependent claims 2-3 and 5-14, are in condition for allowance.

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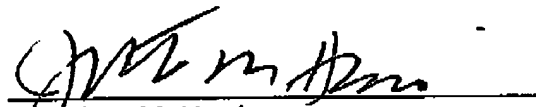
Similarly, with regard to claim 19, the Examiner also objected to the claim as being dependent on a rejected base claim (claim 15), and also indicated that claim 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Without conceding the merits of the Examiner's rejection of claim 19, Applicants have incorporated the limitations of dependent claim 19 (which depended upon claim 16) and of dependent claim 16 (which depended upon claim 15) into independent claim 15, and cancelled claims 18 and 19. Claims 20-21, which previously depended upon claim 19, and claim 22, which previously depended upon claim 16, have been amended to depend upon claim 15. Claim 22 is amended to reflect the correct antecedent basis of a claim element now present in claim 15 as amended. The amendments to claims 20-22 do not narrow the scope of the claims. Based on these amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 15, as well as dependent claims 17-18 and 20-24, are in condition for allowance.

Applicants also add new claims 26-32. These claims are combinations of existing claims and result from rewriting claims that the Examiner objected to, but which would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Specifically, new independent claim 26 is based on claim 1 as previously presented, but incorporating the limitations of claim 8 (indicated as allowable). Likewise new independent claim 30 is based on claim 15 as previously presented, but with the limitations of claim 13 (indicated as allowable). For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that new independent claims 26 and 30, as well as dependent claims 27-29 and 31-32, raise no new issues and are in condition for allowance.

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Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted;



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